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From: Letang, Chris (SOLGEN)
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2022 4:43 PM
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Cc: Abdi, Fuad (MCM); Unfried, Christa (SOLGEN)
Subject: Strategic Update - January 27, 2022

Deputy and Rick,

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-27 at 1700 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

- No incidents relating to a threat to vaccine administration sites, the vaccine supply chain or public health officials were reported today.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

- **NOTE: The convoys are not travelling as cohesive units. Obtaining reliable counts for vehicles is challenging due to factors including multiple convoys; road conditions and closures delaying or diverting portions of different convoys; convoys splitting up; staggered departure times; and vehicles joining and leaving the convoys at different points along respective routes.**

National Convoys

- **The convoy departed Thunder Bay this morning and is scheduled to arrive in Sault Ste. Marie tonight (2300 hours). The convoy has separated in two; one convoy is travelling via Hwy 17 (295 vehicles), the other on Hwy 11 (56 commercial / 43 passenger vehicles). Hwy 17 was closed last night between White River and Batchewana; the extent to which the convoy on Hwy 17 will be impacted is unclear. There are no major issues or public safety incidents to report.**
- **Vehicles in the eastbound convoy are confirmed to be transporting at least two pieces of heavy equipment.**
- CBSA continues to advise that it is unlikely any trucks from the US will cross the border to join the convoy.
- National media continues to report on elements of the trucking convoy promoting beliefs and conspiracy theories associated with broader anti-authority and white supremacist ideology.

Reporting on the online activity and real-time communications of convoy participants on the walkie-talkie app “Zello” indicate some supporters are advocating for violent confrontations and attempts to breach government buildings at Parliament Hill. Organizers have reportedly continued to urge for a peaceful demonstration.

- The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy remains frozen by GoFundMe until it can be determined that the funds will be distributed transparently and in accordance with their terms of service. The GoFundMe account has raised over 5 million dollars. A separate fundraiser (“ADOPT A TRUCKER”) on the crowdfunding site “GiveSendGo.com” has raised \$33,207.

Ontario Convoys

- **Convoy activity increased today throughout the province. Various advisories were issued by police to warn the public of traffic disruption and congestion as convoys move through the GTA and surrounding areas. Police reporting from across the province indicates large numbers of supporters have amassed along the convoy route and at truck stops. In some areas, large numbers of supporters are parked on the side of the highway. Supporters in Ontario have been observed providing food and cash to convoy drivers.**
- **The Hwy 401 Group:**
 - **Toronto:** The convoy is separated in numerous locations. All overpasses had supporters gathering (ie. approximately 500 - 600 people observed at Keele).
 - **Port Hope:** A collision unrelated the convoy occurred; traffic is moving slowly.
 - **Burlington:** Halton Regional Police closed Hwy 401 / Guelph Line overpass today due to the number of spectators on site. Pedestrians were asked to move from roadway due to hazardous conditions, however pedestrians refused. OPP closed onramp to 401 to ensure pedestrians do not enter Hwy 401 proper.
- **Hwy 400:**
 - **Vaughn:** 1500 vehicles were observed staging in the area of Vaughn Mills Mall, with plans to merge to Hwy 401 later this afternoon.
- **Essex/Chatham:**
 - **A convoy departed at 0900 today with approximately 20-30 tractor trailers and 300 passenger vehicles (30 km long). A serious collision occurred as a result of a passenger vehicle not involved in the convoy rear ending a convoy vehicle (pickup truck with ATV). The collision dislodged the ATV causing it to be thrown onto the hood of the passenger vehicle, which in turn lost control and hit the ditch. The driver of the passenger vehicle was transported to hospital in life threatening condition, 2 occupants sustained non-life threatening injuries. The section of highway impacted has since reopened.**
- **Convoys also occurred in Lambton/Sarnia, Elgin, Middlesex and Hearst. No major incidents were reported.**

- Updates continue to be provided through provincial-wide joint intelligence groups with input from PoJ s across the country. The Ontario Provincial Police is coordinating information and awareness to potentially affected jurisdictions.

ASSESSMENT

The noted convoys commenced January 23, 2022, with activity culminating at Parliament Hill, Ottawa on January 29, 2022. Once in Ottawa, some convoy organizers have stated an intent to remain at Parliament Hill until the Federal government concedes to repeal all COVID-19 public health restrictions and mandates. Organizers have indicated they are planning to stage disruptions that may gridlock areas around Parliament buildings and parts of Ottawa. There is no expressed departure date for participants or a clear timing when actions may end.

Information shared through social media has indicated some convoy participants and supporters may attempt to disrupt the business of government by holding events at or near City Halls, Provincial government facilities, offices and/or properties. Public Health Units, mainstream media outlets, and law enforcement facilities may also become vulnerable to protest activities consistent with ongoing anti-mandate and anti-government organizing.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded. Convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest and have advised participants to sign a Code of Conduct articulating the appropriate behaviour for the convoy and protest. However, available information suggests that some elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have limited ability to influence or control the behaviour of some convoy participants and protest attendees.

Confirmation of the transport of two pieces of heavy equipment in the eastbound convoy is noteworthy. Such equipment could be used by convoy participants to block access to strategic locations; to damage property; to render roadways impassable; or to intimidate the public, government, and law enforcement.

False claims regarding the government's planned response to the protest continue to circulate online. False claims could exacerbate tensions and encourage convoy participants or supporters to engage in acts of extremism or violence against government assets, public officials, and law enforcement. It is also possible that these claims on social media could motivate protests in support of the convoys at the local level that could occur spontaneously or with little warning.

Upcoming Events

January 28, 2022

- **Owen Sound: Grey Bruce United We Stand – MTO pull-off (0900-1100 hours).**

Route as follows:

South on Hwy 6/10 South (0930 hours);

Depart Chatsworth (0940 hours);

Depart Flesherton (1010 hours);

Depart Shelburne (1040 hours);

Depart Orangeville (1100 hours);

East on Hwy 9 to Hwy 400 South;

East Hwy 401 on route to Ottawa.

- **Innisfil: Freedom Convoy 2022** – 400 OnRoute (before 1000 hours). Vehicles will drive to 1 Bass Pro Mills Rd. to cheer on the convoy.
- **Hamilton: Hamilton Sends Off Convoy for Freedom** – 349 Kenora Ave., Hamilton (0900 hours).
- **Espanola: Protest** – Hwy 17 and Hwy 6 (0900 hours).
- **Trenton: Freedom Convoy Trenton HWY 401**-HWY 401 Glenn Miller exit (Ramada Inn) (1400 hours).
- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy** – start time 1930 hours at the following locations:
 Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Dr;
 Sydenham Rd overpass;
 Montreal St overpass.

January 29, 2022

- **Ottawa: Freedom Convoy** – Confederation Park/Parliament Hill (1200 hours)
- **Niagara Falls (New York): Freedom Convoy** – Rainbow Blvd. N. (1300 hours)
- **Niagara Falls (Ontario): Freedom Convoy Gathering** – Rainbow Bridge (1400 hours)
- **North Glengarry: Vanleek Hill Meeting Point**-21260 Service Rd. (0800 hours) meeting point TBA.
- **Temiskaming Shores: Convoy 2022 to Ottawa Support Gathering**- Location TBA (1200 hours)
- **Hamilton: Freedom Rally** – Hamilton City Hall (1400 hours)

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